Colorado Springs' Lesbian Bi-Monthly Newsletter

New Phazes

TAKING PRIDE IN WHAT WE HAVE; DARING TO DREAM FOR MORE.

Volume 12 Issue 3

Feb/Mar 1999

New Phazes would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people who have given donations to our newsletter, helping to keep us afloat and publishing throughout 1998. We are a "not for profit" organization, run completely by volunteers who donate an incredible amount of our own time to bring you this publication. We rely on you, our readers and advertisers, for the funds to keep this publication going. Donations are always welcome and needed, and the amount is an individual choice. All donators will have their name published in upcoming issues (withheld upon request) as a note of thanks.

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"Happy Birthday's" going out to:

Nora Feb 6th	Sally Feb 23rd
Johnny Feb 24th	Tony Feb 29th
Lorelei Feb 27th	Lorie Mar 8th
Mel Mar 14th	Cindy Mar 16th

Congratulations going out to:

Rev. Nori Rost's 5th Anniversary @ PPMCC on this past January 5th.

April Hanberry & Karen Lizzi on the birth of their son, Nicholas, on Jan. 16, 1999.

Peg and Ginger on their 8th Anniversary Mar. 31st!

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Mission Statement: To encourage cohesion in the Pikes Peak region's Lesbian community by providing an open forum which stimulates, informs, and entertains.

New Phazes is produced entirely by volunteers 6 times a year **(Feb, April, June, August, October & December).** Issues are mailed or distributed around the first of the month. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity and conciseness; all submissions must include a name and phone number. In the spirit of openness and community, it is *New Phazes'* policy to publish writer's complete names but names will be withheld upon request. Our support network, staff, contributors, and advertisers include lesbian and non-lesbian allies. Editorial and advertising deadline is absolutely the 15th of every month for the publication in the next month's issue. All advertising must be prepaid.

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Dyke Psyche

By Ester Rothblum

Janice Perry: Lesbian Performer of "Highly Exaggerated Autobiography"

I recently watched Janice Perry perform during National Coming Out Week at the University of Vermont. By the time I asked her to describe her life and her work, she was off performing in Switzerland. So we communicated over email. Here are her responses to my questions:

TELL ME THE STORY OF HOW YOU BECAME A LESBIAN COMEDIAN.

Is this a trick question? Because of course, there is the story of how I became a lesbian, and then the story of how I began performing. I never intended to become a "lesbian comedian." I began performing, and because my sexuality is part of my life, it comes out in the show, undisguised. Audiences don't often see lesbianism presented in this way. It's either "WOW , LOOK AT ME, I'M A BIG DYKE!!" or very covert. My mission is to present challenging work in a way that is accessible.

Most, but not all, of my work is highly exaggerated autobiography. I am always trying to find common denominators, trying to weave many different aspects into each piece. The major theme of a piece about an IRS audit was power and abuse of power (this was pre-IRS reform), and the fact that the auditor was coming on to me was the vehicle to exaggerate the taxpayer's fear and the auditor's power. I wanted to unequivocally show the equation between sex and power and fear. That the auditor is a woman adds another layer. This piece also unequivocally describes both the dedication required and the extremely dire financial situation of Artists in general. So there are many levels that are available to the audience. They can take whatever they want from the performance. While this is a theatrical exaggeration of the truth, it is a true story. I **WAS** audited by a woman, who **DID** abuse her power.

WHAT ARE THE MESSAGES YOU ARE BRINGING TO LESBIANS?

I want lesbians and gays to see that it really is okay to be out. That we can present ourselves in public and not be killed for it. I'm not hiding anything, I'm not preaching anything, I'm just going about my business of performing in a perfectly natural way (or imperfectly natural). When I play in some small town and the audience is mixed, as it often is, I think that it is empowering for all of us. Internalized homophobia is the real killer.

I am also showing my total commitment to my work. My performance is more theatrical than stand-up comedy. This is "kabarett" with a small "k" in the European tradition of powerful political statements launched from the platform of comedy, rather than "Kabarett" with a big "K" or "Cabaret" with a "C" which is usually women in glittery evening gowns singing "Send in the Clowns."

This is why I am able to work so often in Europe. In 1982, when I first started, there was either theater or stand-up in the USA, and nothing in-between. I had no language to describe my work . I called it "Comedy--Rock--Music--Theater--Satire." When I first started working in Europe, I found out that there is a word for it - "kabarett."

I use my whole body to deliver the monologues, as well as costumes, singing, lighting and very strong facial gestures. I am performing pieces with what I see to be the big themes--Greed, Fear, Abuse of Power, Sex, War, Death, and Taxes. I'm not so interested in just telling jokes. I am presenting strong content from a lesbian-feminist perspective in a highly comedic way. The comedic aspect makes my work much more accessible to many more people.

IS THERE A PARTICULAR PERFORMANCE THAT STANDS OUT AS MEMORABLE?

Last year (1997) the Swiss queers organized a demonstration in Bern (the capitol) against the new constitution, and the refusal of the government to include equal rights for homosexuals as part of basic human rights. The organizers of the demo invited me to come and perform. There were Swiss, French, German, and Italian speakers and me.

I came out on stage wearing a Statue of Liberty crown and carrying a big penis and said, "I want to thank the Swiss Government for making me feel right at home here. It's so reassuring to know that I will be discriminated against wherever I go." Then I did a piece from the early 80's about the constitution which says that the preamble really should read like this: "We, the MEN of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...

No, that should be, `We, the WHITE MEN of the United States ....'

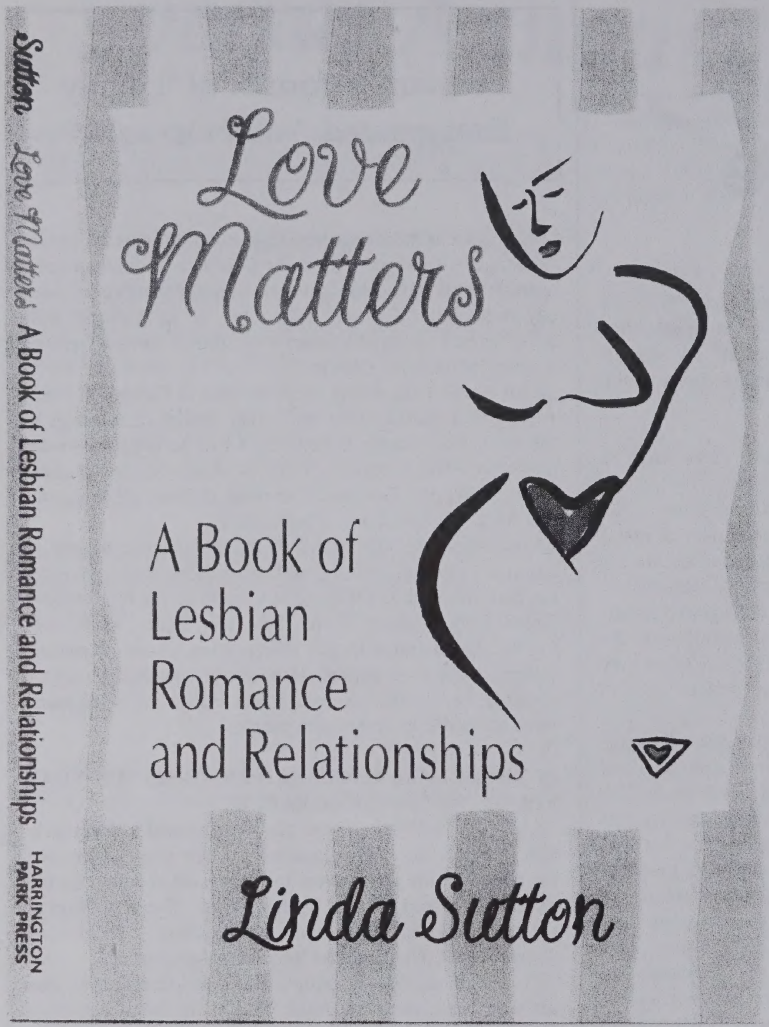
No, that should be, `We the CONSERVATIVE WHITE MEN...'

No, that should be, `We the RICH, CONSERVATIVE, WHITE, MEN...'

No, that should be `We the OLD, RICH, CONSERVATIVE, WHITE, MEN...' "

They really got it.

(Continued on page 6)


Sutton Love Matters A Book of Lesbian Romance and Relationships HARRINGTON PARK PRESS
Love Matters
A Book of Lesbian Romance and Relationships
Linda Sutton

IT'S HERE!

New Phazes own, Linda Sutton, is celebrating the publication of her first book, *LOVE MATTERS,* by Haworth Press in February, 1999. Linda will be signing copies of her book on Sunday, April 11, 1999 from 1 PM–3 PM at The Chinook Bookshop, Inc., 210 N. Tejon St., COS, CO. We suggest you call The Chinook Bookshop to verify the date and time.

This book is a collection of advice columns and personal reflections that will help lesbian couples validate and appreciate their unique relationships. From *Love Matters,* you'll receive honest, informative advice that can help you and your partner share a more open and fulfilling relationship.

"There is for many a certain gift that makes relationships different—boundaries dissolve then reassert themselves after another is already within—the heart becomes confused and calls for exactly that blessing which Linda Sutton offers when only love makes any sense at all." *Stephen and Ondrea Levine, Authors.*

It's finally here! The book we've all been waiting for!

Love Matters has artwork and poetry throughout the book. The artwork is by the cover artist and poetry by well-known lesbian poets—this makes the book beautiful in addition to interesting! The artwork will be part of a lesbian and gay greeting card company which Linda and Maureen hope to launch in 1999.

"I love this book! It's practical, fun to read, and stuffed with great advice to lesbians (and lots of other people, too). The best part is how it reflects the real-life love, fun, and struggles of lesbian love, sex, relationships, and other interests. I think it's a wonderful way to see what other lesbians are interested in so you know you aren't alone." *JoAnn Loulan, psychotherapist, mother, and author.*

"In *Love Matters,* Sutton has given us all a funny, personal, loving collection of down-to-earth wisdom—chicken soup for the soul—from which lesbian women (and all other sensible beings) will profit. So: buy, share, read—and laugh, cry, love, recognize, and celebrate the humanity in these pages." *Robin Morgan*

"Gives readers an opportunity to enjoy Sutton's wit, good sense, and tenderness...She cares about those things that are crucial to the survival and stability of lesbian relationships." *Judith McDaniel, Author.*

"A gem of a book—wise, helpful, and full of heart." *Harriet Lerner, Author.*

BOOK REVIEW

family outing
Written by: chastity bono

I received this book as a Christmas present, and promptly began reading it. Chastity Bono does an excellent job defining the changes not only we, as GLBT's go through in our coming out processes, but also the coming out of parents.

I cannot say it any better than Rep. Barney Frank did, and I quote him now:

"This is an eloquent account of the pain that young gay and lesbian people experience, and how love and courage can lead them and their families to overcome homophobia. It is impossible for any sensible person to read this book and still hold to the notion that the young people who deal with this terrible prejudice do so voluntarily by 'choosing' their sexual orientation."

As I read this book, my memories of coming out, first to my mother, and much later to my son, came flooding back, and I wished that I had something as tangible as this book to share with both of them. This is a must-read for all GLBT's and their families. I would definitely recommend this book to all GLBT's, young and old alike, who are currently struggling with the coming out process. It can definitely help you and your families with this milestone of your life.

Gay bar finds its niche in conservative city

The crowd at the Colorado Grille on Valentine's Day 1972 was much different from the other crowds downtown. Back then, before urban renewal, 30 bars dotted a 10-block area and most catered to blue-collar workers and GIs. No downtown bar had the kind of customers that the new owners, Joe Brady and Tom Gehling, had.

Some of the men ordering Bacardi and Coke were wearing 5-inch platform heels under their bell-bottomed hip huggers. It caught other customers by surprise. "They'd just walk through and pretend like they were in the wrong place," Brady said. Often, they'd walk straight out the back door, but then loiter outside so they could peek inside and catch another glimpse. "It looked like a game of hide and seek," Brady said. So he and Gehling named the bar *The Hide & Seek.*

The bar, now in the 500 block of West Colorado Avenue, is the oldest gay bar in operation in Colorado. It's a Colorado Springs institution that has weathered the Moral Majority, tirades from Anita Bryant, even the religious right in Colorado Springs. "It's really one of the enduring institutions in the city," said John Potterat, director of the sexually transmitted disease section of the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment. It might seem ironic that Colorado's oldest gay bar is in the Springs, but Brady thinks there's a simple reason the bar has endured. "There's been a real need for it," he said.

Over the years, the Hide & Seek became an ad hoc community center, an oasis where just about anyone who sat at the bar would be immediately introduced to five or six people. Gays, lesbians, straights, drag queens and cross dressers -- even a few bridge people who live under Interstate 25 --have been regulars.

It's where the Metropolitan Community Church held its first services in Colorado Springs. The gay rodeo association has met there year after year. The gay Alcoholics Anonymous group met there for a while.

The Hide & Seek opened with 75 seats. It now holds 500 to 600 people and consumes nearly the entire 500 block of West Colorado Avenue. It's no longer a single bar, but a complex with five different theme bars, a full-service restaurant and a dressing room for drag queens. An estimated 400 to 500 people visit the bar every Friday and Saturday night.. Brady and Gehling paid for the original Hide & Seek by selling a cabin they owned in the mountains and using tips they'd earned from waiting tables. Before the bar opened, they dabbled in real estate. "I thought we were going to fix it up and sell it, like we did all our houses," Gehling said.

The couple -- who met at the Exit, Colorado Springs' first gay bar--owned the Hide & Seek for three years before they ever told their parents they were gay. Keeping that secret any longer would have been a near impossibility because in sleepy Colorado Springs word about the gay bar with the bath house in the basement was getting around. "It was the best dance floor in town, with a superb sound system," said Potterat. "People who were not gay would go there because it was a place to have a good time. It was really the 'in' place to go because nobody can party like a gay crowd."

That was in the late 1970s and early 1980s, before AIDS and stricter DUI laws. People didn't worry about having too much to drink or whether the cute guy across the room was infected with a deadly virus. "It was pretty much carefree," said Gehling, an Iowa native who moved to Colorado Springs after he was honorably discharged from the Navy. During that era, people of all persuasions flocked to the bar to see Big David, an outrageous comic drag queen, disco divas and local female impersonators. The Village People played on two different occasions at the bar, but the largest crowd ever -- 812 people -- came to see the Weather Girls, shortly after the group released the hit single "It's Raining Men." The big acts played in the main dance bar, in an atmosphere that is still much the same

As the 1980s arrived, the fear of AIDS affected the bar. It wasn't the live-and-let-live scene anymore. "Before AIDS, the bars would be packed seven days a week because men were very promiscuous," Brady said. **(Continued on page 6)**

(Hide & Seek Continued from page 5)

"They were hoping to score every night they'd come out, but for a while people just didn't go out." They stayed away, fearful of the ruthless disease that was claiming their friends

At the time, there was no Southern Colorado AIDS Project, no Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Even the health department didn't have all the answers. "That really put the responsibility on us to educate the people," Brady said. "We were almost preaching, Tom and I, we just started a one-on-one campaign and people thought we were nuts. We were telling people what they could do and what they couldn't do. We'd tell them just eating with somebody . . . wasn't going to get you AIDS."

Fear prompted some lovers to kick their sick partners out of their houses and parents to disown their dying sons. The bar owners took them in. Brady and Gehling opened the Lambda House, a safe house and hospice for people with AIDS, in a home they own behind the bar. Volunteer nurses and nurse's aides cared for the guests -- up to 30 of them in the five years the home was open. "Without the Hide & Seek, I don't know how we could have galvanized the gay community," says John Potterat.

The Hide & Seek donates 10 cents of every drink sold to charity, and not a weekend passes that the bar isn't holding a fund-raiser for some group. And though the city has a reputation for being intolerant of homosexuals, Brady said he doesn't think Colorado Springs is much different from anyplace else.

"There are some places, like what happened in Wyoming, where you have the sicko minister that comes out from Wichita or whatever. We don't have people like that, even with all these fundamental church groups. We don't have people come preaching to us or trying to convert us like you hear of in other communities - not even during Amendment 2." In fact, in June when the bar circulated a petition in the neighborhood to expand the liquor license to include a new bar called Women2Womyn, there were no objections. "We had a survey of the area, which was a mile square, and we didn't have anybody who wouldn't sign," Brady said. A disbelieving city's liquor board delayed the expansion for a month. They couldn't believe it. They said, "Well, we always have 30 percent negative anytime a bar tries to expand.'"

Now on internet

Gay/Lesbian rainbow List– www.rainbowPgs.com
Gay Interest News & Information– OUTdaily.com

(Dyke Psyche Continued from page 3)

IS JANICE PERRY THE PERFORMER DIFFERENT FROM JANICE PERRY THE INDIVIDUAL? DO YOU FIND YOURSELF PERFORMING TO FRIENDS AND LOVERS?

I am really lucky in that I get to let out a lot of my desire for attention in my work. Before I started performing on stage, I was performing all day long, because I had no outlet for this creativity. I must have been hell to be around. I thank my friends for putting up with me. Now I am much more relaxed in my personal life.

Sometimes when I arrive at a theater where they don't know my work, they look a bit worried, like--"Uh-oh, this is just a normal 48 year old woman, and she isn't even wearing make-up, and what kind of show will this be?" When I go on stage, they are amazed by my energy, which is very intense. They can't believe it's the same person. There is a definite difference between my work and my private life.

I lead a quiet life and I have many and varied interests. I love nature, hiking, gardening, cross-country skiing, bird-watching. I'm an avid reader, I love the classics, English social comedies from the 20's and 30's, fiction, history. I love music--rock and roll, classical, heavy metal, opera. I love to go to the theater. Dance. Visual Arts. Architecture. Archeology. Yoga. Fashion. I'm very interested in both pre-history and pop culture. I like to see what is going on in "society," both regionally and globally, to try to identify the trends, see what is universal and then use this information in my work. In some way I'm always working, always noticing, observing. But I can do it from the sidelines. I don't need to be the center. I get enough of that on-stage.

For further information or to schedule a performance, contact: Janice Perry RD 1, Ferrisburgh, Vermont 05456 email: jpakagal@aol.com webpage with tour schedule : http://members.aol.com/jpakagal

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 05405 email: esther.rothblum@uvm.edu

Rocky Mtn Chapter of the Sierra Club, gay and Lesbian section– The Sierra Club has 600,000 members nationwide and is one of the oldest and most respected grassroots environmental organizations in the world. The Gay and Lesbian group is sanctioned as an official Activities Section of the Club–the 7th to be formed in the country. A wide variety of activities are available from hikes and bike rides, to learning backcountry survival and maintaining trails. The Gay and Lesbian Sierrans extend a warm welcome to all gays and lesbians who would like to join Sierra Club activities, even if they are not yet members. Call Greg Cafini, Chair of the gay section, for more info. Ask for a quarterly newsletter that lists projects and other info. 303-861-2844.

FEBRUARY / MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

Bear Creek (Gay) Bowlers-each Friday: 11-4 p.m. 21st Street So.—The Womyn's Ranch needs our help! See Ge at the Bear Creek Lanes Fri. 11-4pm.

BACCHUS-Monthly wine tasting group-usually 2nd Fri. of month. Call 576-3465 for more information.

Weekly: W.O.M.B.A.T.S. (Women's Mountain Bike and Tea Society) enjoys a weekly ride around town. All levels welcome. Call 685-1061.

DOTMC Feb/Mar Email marti.harvey@mci.com or pager 719.532-3921 for more info.

SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY— Friday, Feb. 12, 1999. The National Freedom to Marry Coalition hopes that **a:** actions and events will be planned in all 50 states, and **b:** each local action group or committee will have moved week-by-week between now and then to assemble a broad array of allies, and **c:** local groups will reach as broad an audience as possible by securing coverage in the print, television, and radio media.

1st ANNUAL OREGON GAY AND LESBIAN SKI WEEK/WINTER CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT THE INN OF THE SEVENTH MOUNTAIN AND MT. BACHELOR— Will be held Feb. 24– Mar. 1, 1999 at the Inn of the 7th Mountain. Located in Central Oregon, the Inn offers attendees inviting accommodations nestled in the Deshchutes Nat'l Forest. It is the closest lodging to Mt. Bachelor Ski and Summer Resort. The Ski Week and Winter Carnival will emphasize wintertime play with events geared for both skiers and non-skiers. Slated are theme parties and apres ski parties every evening, banquet dinners, a mountain costume "parade," special events for non-skiers, and social mixer events including snowmobiling, dog sled rides, snowshoeing, and ice skating. All-inclusive packages for this event start at $579 for five nights lodging, 4 days lift tickets, 4 banquet dinners, admission to nightly theme parties, and much more. Custom packages can be built for shorter stays. For more information, or to book reservations and flight information, contact Sportours at 818-553-3333 or 800-660-2754. Email reservations@sportours.com

LOVERS AND GAMBLERS '99

UGLW presents "Lovers and Gamblers '99, Fifty Ways To Please Your Lover," a casino night to be held on Saturday February 27, 1999 at the Atlas Theater, 211 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming. The festivities will begin at 7 PM and conclude at 1 AM. The cost is $13.00 for UGLW members and $18.00 for nonmembers. Included in the fee are gambling bucks, live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, and nonalcoholic beverages. This is a BYOB event and ice will be provided. Special hotel rates are available at the Plains Hotel, 1600 Central Ave. for the night of the event. These rates are as follows:

Regular single (sleeps 2)	$19.95	Deluxe single (sleeps 2)	$33.95
Regular double (sleeps 4)	$38.95	Deluxe suite (sleeps 4)	$45.95
		Deluxe suite with hot tub	$65.95

These rates can be acquired by mentioning Lovers and Gamblers when making reservations. To make reservations please call (307) 638-3311. Games will include Black Jack, Roulette, Poker, Craps, and Slot Machines. Gambling bucks can be used for gambling, and can also be used to bid on prizes during the auction at the end of the evening. Some of the prizes for the 1998 Lovers and Gamblers included weekend getaways, jewelry, tickets to concerts and plays, bar tabs, and gift certificates.

THE SISTERS OF SAPPHO drop-in support group in Colorado Springs for lesbian and Bi women was reborn under the leadership of Jill. Beginning on January 14, SOS will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (thereby avoiding the 1st and 3rd Thursdays on which Marriage Transitions meets) at 7 p.m. at a private home. Sisters of Sappho (sometimes known as Count Me In, and most recently reorganized as SOL--Slightly Older Lesbians) has a long and valuable history in the Colorado Springs community. SOS is different from the Women's Social Group, which usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. Call the Helpline (471-4429) for more information on either organization.

EQUALITY COLORADO—March 21-27—Equality Begins at Home is the beginning of a nat'l campaign to strengthen and unite the LGBT communities in every state & territory in the country. Planned events include a GLBTQ youth rally and youth lobby day, the "Love Project" with portraits of GLBT couples & families placed on legislator's desks, a coordinated action at county clerk offices to obtain marriage licenses and much more. For more info contact Nick Sarchet, EBAH Statewide Coordinator. at 303-839-5540 x4 or email Ecsarchet@aol.com. In COS call 227-8545.

By Linda Sutton

some thoughts on lesbian love

QUESTION:
How do you "lifers" do it? I'm a short-timer myself. First sign of trouble, I'm out of there... K.T.

ANSWER:
That night when he bent his knees into the crook of hers, she yielded, melting into him, and they made love. Life was normal again, life was good--Bosnia to Paris in twenty-four hours.

Anne Lamorr
Crooked Little Heart

What makes K.T. think we do it? Even for us long-timers, relationships are often too much dang trouble. Take yesterday. It was a "school day," and Maureen and I were having lunch together. We were eating our favorite salads, having our usual mid-day conversation ("How's your morning going?"), planning dinner ("How 'bout take out Thai?"), when we realized that we had enough time to run downtown to find a birthday present for a dear friend.

We headed for our favorite downtown shop with only vague notions of what we wanted to buy. I had suggested some face or body cream, so our search began in that department. Being a fickle kind of gal, I soon abandoned lotions in favor of scarves; it seemed, somehow, more sexy. By then, of course, Maureen had gotten pretty attached to lotions. Being the flexible kind of gal she is, she was willing to switch gears--providing we could find the perfect scarf.

Thirty minutes later, we still hadn't located the scarf of our dreams. We were beginning to feel irritated--at one another, no less. I was willing to buy the less-than-perfect scarf. She was willing to buy the less-than-glamorous body cream. Clearly, though, neither of us was ready to capitulate. Why we didn't agree to shop another day and go our separate ways is anyone's guess. I'm thinking that solution was just too obvious.

Just as we were ready to give up, we discovered the perfect scarf. Relieved, we marched to the sales counter, grateful to have accomplished our task without homicide being involved. We no sooner had money in hand, however, when Maureen said, "Would it be too crazy if we got the body lotion too?"

I'll spare you the graphic description of the look I gave her, but I'm fairly certain you'd recognize it (having been in a relationship yourself, no doubt) as the have-you-completely-lost-your-mind look. Sadly, I'll have to admit that our noontime jaunt had turned into a "Bosnia" moment. Maureen stormed out of the store, and I was left holding the bag (so to speak). I stood at the counter feeling mortified and praying, as the scarf was wrapped, that no one we knew had witnessed our ugly scene.

I left the store unhappy and confused about my exact feelings. Was I angry? ("How dare she put a fly in my ointment at the last minute?") Well, not exactly. Did I feel guilty? ("Why didn't I just give an inch?") No, not really. Was I hurt? ("How could she just leave me standing there?") That wasn't it either. Was it fear? ("Uh oh, this could mean THE END?") Absolutely not.

The truth was (once I allowed myself to acknowledge it) that I wasn't angry, guilty, hurt, or scared as much as I was, well...fed up. I was fed up with being married—relating, taking someone else's feelings into consideration, compromising, cooperating—fed up with the sheer weight of a relationship. In fact, I was actually relieved that Maureen had the good sense to cut her losses and leave. I certainly didn't want to deal with her one minute longer.

Now, no one needs to remind me (least of all you, Maureen) that in last month's column I was singing the praises of marriage. At the risk of appearing hypocritical, this month's theme can be summarized by a greeting card I saw the other day: Yes, I love being married, but does it have be **every day**?

Let's face it, K.T., some days are simply made for being single. Those are the days that you don't feel like sharing your dessert with the love of your life, going to the movie she chooses or, as illustrated here, certainly not making a joint decision about a birthday present. Call it what you will--relationship bum-out, communication breakdown, self-centeredness, whatever. I'm sure I could have analyzed the situation to death except that I was too worn out to do even that! The bottom line is that, some days, relationships are more work than we feel like doing--**especially** for us lifers. Sometimes I'm so caught up in my own personal struggles, I have no energy (or motivation) left to relate to Maureen's. So how do we lifers do it? Well, I spent the rest of that workday pretending I was single. I didn't give Maureen (or the mishap) a moment's thought--not, at least, until 6:30 when it was time to go home for dinner. At that point, I called the Girlfriend. Our conversation went something like this:

"Hi, what's going on?"
"I'm just finishing up my last haircut."
"Are you hungry yet?"
"Yeah, I am."
"You still want to take out Thai?"
"Yeah, that sounds great. I'll pick it up."
"Thanks. See you at home."
"Hey, by the way, I'm sorry about that lunch time deal."
"Yeah, that was really stupid I'm sorry too."
"See you in a few."

I can't fully explain to K.T. what this staying power is all about. It just seems that if you hang in there long

(Continued on page 9)

(Love Matters continued from page 8)

enough and get through enough Bosnia moments, those moments stop feeling threatening to your relationship. The trust you've worked so long and hard to build (one struggle at a time) has been rewarded with...confidence--the confidence to know that this bad moment (day, week, month) is just a little *dip* in the road. It's not the end of the road. So, K.T., if you're always "out of there" when it gets difficult, you may be missing Paris. And I hate for that to happen to anyone--especially you.

In the meantime, don't ever forget, your Love Matters.

Linda Sutton, M.A. is a psychotherapist in private practice specializing in issues of concern to all women. For information concerning her practice and Love Matters workshops, contact Linda at 632-0465. She currently has openings in her lesbian support group. Selections from this column will appear in a book to be published by the Haworth Press in February, 1999.

HEALTH BEAT

TAKING CARE OF YOUR TEETH AND MOUTH.

By: ***My favorite dentist,***
Sandra Swing.

Tooth decay is not just a children's disease; it can happen as long as natural teeth are in the mouth. Tooth decay is caused by bacteria that normally live in the mouth. The bacteria cling to teeth and form a sticky, colorless film called dental plaque. The bacteria in plaque live on sugars and produce decay-causing acids that dissolve minerals on tooth surfaces. Tooth decay can also develop on the exposed roots of the teeth if you have gum disease or receding gums (where gums pull away from the teeth, exposing the roots.)

Just as with children, fluoride is important for adult teeth. Research has shown that adding fluoride to the water supply is the best, and least costly, way to prevent tooth decay. Using fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses can add protection. Daily fluoride rinses can be bought at most drug stores without a prescription. (Continued next column)

If you have a problem with cavities, your dental hygienist may give you a fluoride treatment during the office visit. The dentist may prescribe a fluoride gel or mouth rinse for you to use at home.

A common cause of tooth loss after age 35 is **Gum (periodontal) Disease.** These are infections of the gum and bone that hold the teeth in place. Gum diseases are also caused by dental plaque. The bacteria in plaque cause the gums to become inflamed and bleed easily.

If untreated, the disease worsens as pockets of infection form between the teeth and gums. This causes receding gums and loss of supporting bone. You may lose enough bone to cause your teeth to become loose and fall out. You can prevent gum disease by removing plaque. Thoroughly brush and floss your teeth daily. Carefully check your mouth for early signs of disease such as red, swollen, or bleeding gums. See your dentist regularly.

BUMPER STICKERS SPOTTED AROUND TOWN:

EARTH IS FULL GO HOME

I HAVE THE BODY OF A GOD.....BUDDHA

THIS WOULD BE REALLY FUNNY IF IT WEREN'T HAPPENING TO ME

SO MANY PEDESTRIANS SO LITTLE TIME

I USED TO BE DISGUSTED NOW I'M JUST AMUSED

CLEVERLY DISGUISED AS A RESPONSIBLE ADULT

IF PROGRESS MEANS TO MOVE FORWARD WHAT DOES CONGRESS MEAN?

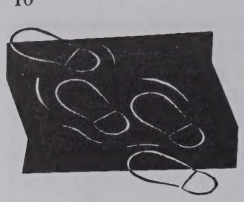
IF WE QUIT VOTING WILL THEY ALL GO AWAY?

POLITICS - FROM THE WORDS "POLY," MEANING "MANY," AND "TICKS," AS IN "SMALL, BLOOD-SUCKING PARASITES"

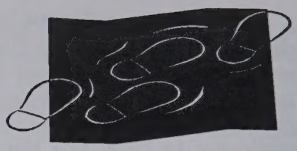
THE FACE IS FAMILIAR BUT I CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER MY NAME

HE WHO DIES WITH THE MOST TOYS...STILL DIES

ILLITERATE? WRITE FOR HELP



WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



CFV's INABILITY TO GAIN PETITIONS SIGNATURES IS A GREAT VICTORY FOR COLORADO SPRINGS

Springs Together, a coalition of concerned local citizens, is celebrating Colorado For Family Values' latest failure to promote CFV's pro-discrimination agenda as a victory for all Colorado Springs residents. CFV failed to make a deadline to present the City Clerk with the 11,085 signatures needed to place their own so-called "civil rights" ordinance on April's ballot. In circulating the petitions, CFV was attempting to force a vote to overturn the City's **Zero Tolerance for Discrimination Resolution** that denounces "discrimination of a racial, ethnic, sexual or religious nature."

Springs Together is a broad-based group of citizens who value fairness and who care about the well-being of Colorado Springs. They have rallied together to uphold the Zero Tolerance for Discrimination Resolution and to defeat the so-called "civil rights" ordinance CFV was attempting to place on April's ballot.

Springs Together was founded on the belief that discrimination of any kind is just plain wrong. The organization believes that the Zero Tolerance for Discrimination resolution is an important step to create a healthy environment for business and growth in Colorado Springs.

Washington, DC— Five years after the presidential executive order detailing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the armed services are doing a lot of asking, even when gay men and lesbians in uniform try to keep quiet. Nearly 1,000 soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen were discharged for being gay in fiscal year 1997, a 17% increase over the prior year. It is the largest number since 1986.

A recent Pentagon review of "don't ask, don't tell' found some commanders have sought out gay men and lesbians in their ranks even when they have done nothing to attract attention to their sexual orientation. Department of Defense statistics also show women are being discharged for homosexuality at a greater rate than men. Women made up about 13% of the military in fiscal year 1996 but accounted for 29% of homosexual conduct discharges. In 1997, approximately 14% of military personnel were women, but 22% of the people discharged for homosexuality were women. The Pentagon couldn't explain the gender difference. The report rejects the argument that women are sometimes accused of being lesbian in retaliation for reporting sexual harassment or other misconduct.

Georgia—Georgia's highest court threw out the state's long-standing anti-sodomy law, nearly a decade after the statute survived a Supreme Court challenge. The state law "manifestly infringes upon a constitutional provision...which guarantees to the citizens of Georgia the right of privacy," Chief Justice Robert Benham wrote for the Georgia Supreme Court. The ruling was hailed by the gay and lesbian community, who say they have disproportionately been the targets of anti-sodomy laws.

In Congress—Rep. Steve Largent (R-OK) introduced a measure to ban adoption in Washington, DC for unmarried couples, including gay and lesbian couples. The measure passed the House on a 227-192 vote. Single people are still able to adopt.

Arkansas—a state board is attempting to bar gay and lesbian people from being foster parents. The Child Welfare Agency Review Board did, however, drop a provision banning singles from foster care.

Texas—Legislation being drafted by state Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), would prohibit children from being placed in the homes of gay or lesbian couples for adoption or foster care in Texas. Two states, Florida and New Hampshire, have passed laws that expressly prohibit adoptions by gay and lesbian people.

Las Vegas, Nevada—Sandy Casey, founder and co-chair of Access Alliance, announced the launch of a national consumer network to bring gay and lesbian consumers together for group discounts and gay-specific offerings from a host of major corporations. The innovative network puts the purchasing power of the gay and lesbian community to work for members, saving time and money while accessing benefits from companies that embrace equal treatment and respect for lesbians and gays. The $20 annual memberships are currently available through the Internet at www.accessalliance.com and by calling Access Alliance at 800-693-2349. Access Alliance provides gay couples the benefits of marriage with auto insurance, homeowners/renters insurance, and car rental privileges.

Women's Social Group—meets about twice monthly, usually the 1st & 3rd Sat. evenings for various fun, social activities. Open to all lesbians 21+. For more info, please call and leave a message on the PPGLCC Helpline, 471-4GAY.

Women's Outdoor Club—will hold a 4.5 mile novice-to-intermediate ski trip with two nights at one of the best-loved huts in the system. Feb. 11-13, 1999. Contact Joan at 303- 355-6549 for more information.

Building Community Resource Page

COLORADO SPRINGS

BARS/RESTAURANTS

Back Streets	719.599-8858
HOURGlass Lounge	719.473-9723
Hide n' Seek	719.634-9303
Women2Womyn	719.634-9303

BOOKSTORE

Celebration New Age Store	719.634-1855
2209 W. Colorado Ave.	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pikes Peak Community Ctr.	719.471-4429
PO Box 607, 80901	

ORGANIZATIONS

Equality Colorado	719.227-8545
Inside/Out Youth Group	719.578-3160
Pikes Peak MCC	719.634-3771
730 N.Tejon	
PFLAG-COS	719.598-5298
Southern CO AIDS Project	719.578-9092
PO Box 311, 80901	
Women's Social Group	719 471-4429

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BOOKSTORES

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Word Is Out	303.449-1415
1731 Fifteenth St.	
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Boulder SafeHouse	303 .444-2424
Crisis Line (24hrs)	303.852-5094
GLBCSCC	303.831-6268
PO Drawer 18E, 80218-0140	
Lambda Report	303.331-2360
PO Box 9742, 80290	
KBDI-12 Thurs 11pm	

ORGANIZATIONS

Citizens for Human Rights	303.430-4818
PO Box 261112	
Lakewood, 80226	
Colorado AIDS Project	837-0166
CO Legal Initiatives Project	303.830-2100
PO Box 300397 80203	
Empowerment Program	303.863-7817
HIV Infected Womyn	
Equality Colorado	303.839-5540
PO Box 300476, 80203	1-888-557-4441
G/L/Straight Teachers Network	303.232-3789
meets 2nd Monday	
G/L Latino Alliance	303.281-9376
GLB Community Center	303.831-6268
It's Me Again	303.939-9245
breast prostheses	
Job Survival Hotline	1-800-522-0925
Law Line 9	303.698-0999
free legal advice	
Lesbian Avengers	303.861-1084
meets Thursdays	303.321-8788
Lesbians Choosing Children	303.333-3771
meets monthly	303.727-8535
email rrosechild@aol.com	
Lesbian Connection, The	303.443-1105
2525 Arapahoe #E4-233	
Boulder, 80302	
Lesbian Domestic Violence Support Group	
SafeHouse Denver	303.892-8400
Lesbian Herstory Archives	718.768-3953
PO Box 1258 NY, NY 10116	
Log Cabin Republicans	303.837-1975
G/L Republicans	
Military Veterans-RMGLB Vets of AM	
PO Box 721, Denver, 80201	
NOW	303.830-2795
1552 Pennsylvania, 80203	
PFLAG-Denver	303.333-0286
PO Box 18901, 80219	
Rainbow Wings-Support for Lesbian	
Survivors of Sexual Abuse	303.238-8660
Sister II Sister	303.831-6268
Black Sisters support group	
SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) Denver	303.399-2069
Teens AIDS Hot-Line	800-234TEEN
Women's Outdoor Club	303.271-3576
PO Box 300085, 80203	
Womynscircle	303.831-6268
Womyn's Support Group-Tuesdays	

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Elle, The	303.572-1710
716 W. Colfax	
Grand, The	303.839-5390
538 E. 17th Ave	
Tracks 2000	303.292-6600
2975 Fox St.	

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Bonforte & Liberty LN.	
MCC Pueblo	719.543-6460
PFLAG-Pueblo	719.542-6359
PO Box 4484, 81502	
Pueblo After 2	719.564-4004
PO Box 1602, 81002	
Southern CO AIDS Project	719.561-2616

MISCELLANEOUS LISTINGS

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DIRECTORIES

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PO Drawer 2270 Boulder, 80306-2270	
G&L Yellow Pages	303.863-9232
Lesbian & Gay Pink Pages	303.831-7126
PO Box 18306, 80219	
NETCORE	719.471-4GAY

The New Phazes Staff encourages your responses to editorials or articles. All submissions must be received by the 15th of the month. Send all responses to:

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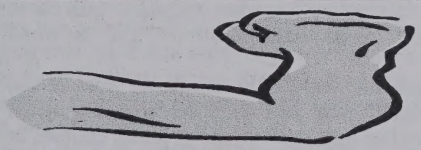

The Weaker Sex—researchers have determined once and for all that women are NOT the weaker sex, men are. Women are much more likely to survive terrible calamities like cold and famine than men are, because nature has equipped them better to withstand hardships. They are smaller, with 17% less body mass on average than men, so they need less food to survive. Women have nearly twice the percentage of body fat, and more of a woman's fat is subcutaneous—right beneath the skin. It has a poor blood supply, which makes it an excellent insulator in the cold."

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado recently announced $195,950 in funding to 22 organizations in Colorado Springs, Denver, Boulder, and Alamosa as part of its commitment to providing a total of $700,000 in 1998 to support quality community programs in Colorado. Grants range from $1,000 to $40,000, and support programs in the areas of social justice, children and youth, leadership development, arts and culture, excellence in communications, and public broadcasting.

Grants announced include:

- Adoption Exchange (Denver)
- American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado (Denver)
- Boys & Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region (Colorado Springs)
- Center for Community Development & Design-University of Colorado (Colorado Springs)
- Citizen's Chamber (Colorado Springs)
- Colorado Ballet Company (Denver)
- Colorado Springs Symphony
- Community Conversations on Race (Colorado Springs)
- Denver Jazz on Film
- Denver Young Artists Orchestra (Denver)
- Justice Information Center, Inc. (Denver)
- KGNU Public radio (Boulder)
- KRZA Public radio (Alamosa)
- Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (Denver)
- Rocky Mountain News in Education (Denver)
- Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival (Colorado Springs)
- Rocky Mountain Women's Institute (Denver)
- Speaking of Dance (Denver)
- Tutmose Family & Community Services, Inc. (Colorado Springs)

Esther Rothblum, Dyke Psyche author and University of Vermont professor, is looking for volunteers to complete a survey about how lesbians and their sisters are similar or different.

To participate, please contact::

Esther Rothblum, Box 1111,
John Dewey Hall,
University of Vermont,
Burlington, VT 05405
email
esther.rothblum@urn.edu and leave mailing address.

THE BEST THINGS HAPPEN WHILE YOU'RE DANCING. By: Su Stout

The music was loud. Jess could feel the vibrations through the Frye boots she had polished to a deep caramel a few hours ago. In spite of her dislike for the song, she began to tap her foot. She was feeling comfortable, even a little happy. The overhead lights were dim. Spotlights flashed in rainbow colors across the dancers in the middle of the floor. Jess leaned her elbow on the mahogany bar and rested her chin in the palm of her large hand.

The dance floor was crowded, although the evening was young, but Jess' eyes had no trouble singling out the redhead. She was dancing with a short blond, but seemed oblivious to anything except the music. Eyes closed, her head was thrown back as her body swayed and her feet followed the beat of the song. Jess watched. She imagined her arms around the woman; imagined feeling the music the way the redhead was.

For over a month, Jess had come to Charity every weekend. It was one of Portland's most popular mixed gay bars and was always packed by 10 p.m. On Friday and Saturday evenings, Jess would polish her Frye boots, press a sharp crease into her Levi's and brush off her brown tweed jacket with the corduroy patches. Each time she was at the bar, Jess watched the redhead dance with partner after partner, yet all she did was watch. Tonight, Jess intended to dance with her.

Jess had been alone for a long time. After her ugly, bloody breakup with Cassie, Jess hadn't been interested in being that vulnerable again. She'd thrown herself into her work and her friends, and she'd nursed her wounds. That was five years ago. Feeling stronger and more confident, more at ease with herself, and more than a little lonely, Jess leaned back on the barstool and thought, tonight is the night!

She was brought out of her reverie as the music abruptly ended. The dancers left the floor. To her amazement, the redhead walked right toward the bar. She slid her body between Jess and the guy on the next stool. Jess caught her breath, sat back and tried not to stare. Signaling the bartender, the redhead said, "Another Olympia, Alice."

Jess opened her mouth to say hello, but before the words came out, the woman walked back toward her table. Jess grinned sheepishly, turned back toward her drink and looked directly into the broad face of the bartender.

"You got it bad, dontcha pal?"

Jess smiled weakly, feeling her cheeks and ears getting warm. "Shows, huh?"

"That one has a real bad rep, y'know," said Alice as she dragged a damp rag up and down the length of the bar. "Goes home with a different one every night."

"Maybe she just hasn't met a woman she wants to settle down with yet," said Jess. "You know her name?"

Alice shook her head, looked away for a moment, ran her hand through her halo of gray curls and said, "It's your funeral; her name is Lila."

Alice walked toward the far end of the bar and Jess said softly, "Lila." She liked the sound.

The music was starting again. A slower song, perfect to dance close to. Jess downed the rest of her Perrier, wiped her lips on the back of her hand and started toward the table across the room.

In front of the redhead, Jess straightened to her full six-foot stature and said, "Care to dance?"

The redhead looked up at Jess. Six feet tall with long, wild black hair, Jess knew she always made a strong impression. The redhead stared for a long moment, then smiled, held out her hand and said, "I'd love to."

Jess led her to the center of the floor and pulled her close, wrapping her long arms around the lithe little body. Both women responded to the rhythm of each other's body. Seconds later they were moving as one. Jess rested her chin lightly against the top of the frizzy red hair and said, "My name's Jess. What's yours?" Without missing a beat or looking up, the redhead said, "Lila." "That's pretty," murmured Jess. "Suits you."

"Thanks."

Jess felt transformed. Senses long ignored were waking. Everything except the rhythm of the music and the swaying of their bodies ceased to exist. Everything was sensual. She felt every inch of her six foot, 220 pound frame come alive and smolder. Gently, she tightened her grip on Lila, who responded by reaching her arms around Jess' waist to stuff her hands into Jess' back pockets. Jess caught her breath as Lila eased her body more tightly against the tall woman. Bending her face to Lila's hair again, Jess inhaled the delicate scent, trying to memorize every sensation. When the music stopped, Lila looked up at Jess and said, "Join me at the table?" Jess smiled. "Let me get us some drinks."

Lila made her way across the dance floor as the music began again. Jess watched her walk away, then wove her way through the gyrating couples to the bar. She grinned at the bartender and ordered another beer for Lila and a Perrier for herself. Alice shook her head as Jess walked toward the table on the other side of the room. She sat down next to Lila rather than across from her and said, "Here you go."

Lila took the Olympia and sat back to look at Jess in silence for a moment. "You've been watching me for a long time. Am I everything you expected?"

Jess blushed scarlet. "I don't know you yet," she stammered.

"What's to know? What you see is what you get,"

(Continued on page 17)

said Lila. I saw you talking to Alice. I'm sure she told you all about me."

"I heard the words, but I have a feeling she's all wrong. I'll take my chances."

The smile faded from Lila's face for a minute. "I hope she's wrong too. Trouble is, I'm afraid she isn't."

The pained expression in Lila's gray eyes squeezed at Jess' heart. In the next moment, the pain was gone, replaced by a cold, hard stare that made her eyes look like steel. Jess continued to look into the stare. "What's so fascinating about my face?"

Jess smiled, reached out and gently moved one of Lila's red curls off her cheek. "It depends. Actually, I was watching your eyes. They're supposed to be the windows of the soul. Yours are like doors. They open and I see a fleeting glimpse of you, then they slam shut in my face."

"What do you think you see when they're open?" "I'm not sure. I usually reserve judgment until I know someone very well. We've got a long way to go. In the meantime, want to dance?"

At the 3 a.m. closing, Jess and Lila were still dancing, talking and laughing. Jess was happier than she had been in a long time, and she felt Lila was losing her tough exterior. Jess searched the gray eyes each time their gaze met. Maybe one day the doors would stay open.

Jess walked Lila to her car. Lila hesitated for a moment, then leaned seductively against the white Camaro and said, "Want to spend the night?"

Jess caught her breath. Every cell in her body screamed YES. She watched Lila. This was part of the act that by now Jess had decided was simply an act. Jess smiled at Lila, leaned close and very gently pressed her mouth to Lila's soft lips. Lila's lips parted as she began to run her tongue along Jess' upper lip. Abruptly, Jess stood back. There was a pained, confused expression on Lila's face.

Jess cupped Lila's chin in her hand and said, "I want to say yes, very much. But if I do that, I'll be acknowledging that Alice was right. I don't think she is. I want you. I see someone in you that you may not even remember, and I'm willing to wait until you find her and remember."

Tears flooded Lila's eyes and spilled down her cheeks. "So what if you're wrong?" Jess wiped the tears off Lila's white cheeks and said, "I know I'm right, and when I feel this strongly, I won't back down. Go home and sleep on it. I'll be back here later tonight."

Walking back to her old beat up Chevy was one of the hardest things Jess had ever done. She waved to Lila as she eased the Nova out of the parking lot, then gripped the leather-laced steering wheel as panic and pain washed over her. What if Lila didn't show up again? What if she didn't want a relationship? What if she only wanted one night? Jess closed her eyes and leaned her head against the seat's headrest as she stopped for the last traffic light on N.E. Sandy Blvd. before it became W. Burnside Street. She was almost home and fighting an overwhelming urge to go back to Lila. When she opened her eyes, the light was green. She headed home, where she fell onto the bed fully dressed and slept.

That evening, Jess was at her usual station at the bar when Lila arrived. Her heart skipped a beat when she saw the red halo. Lila had come in alone, but was greeted by four women at the door. She smiled a perfunctory greeting, letting her eyes scan the bar. When she saw Jess, she shook off the four confused women and made her way toward the bar.

"Hello Amazon. I was wondering if you would be here."

Jess smiled, then reached out to envelop Lila in a mammoth hug. When she released the small woman, Lila looked up into Jess' broad face and again Jess saw the clear gray eyes. No guards, no barriers.

Lila slid onto the stool beside Jess and smiled as Alice put an Olympia down in front of her. She smiled at the bartender, then turned to Jess. "I'm glad you're here."

Jess took her hand and said, "Me too. Let's dance." Chicago's *Color My World* was playing as Lila reached up to put her arms around Jess' neck. At five feet five inches, she had to stand on her toes to do this. But she liked the sensation of being slightly off balance, depending on Jess's strong frame to keep her upright. The power in Jess' arms and the gentleness of her personality made Lila feel safe and warm. These were new feelings for her.

Lila's was a classic horror story. A new stepfather and an alcoholic, jealous mother left Lila on the streets at sixteen. She had learned early on that love was a commodity that she could ill afford, that her body was just a vehicle that brought her money and other necessities. What she had done had kept her alive. Nothing more, nothing less.

Now here was someone she wanted. She didn't remember ever feeling this way before. What she didn't understand was what Jess wanted. No one had ever waited for a second invitation. She had stared at her face in the mirror for a long time last night. Even at thirty and a little drunk, she was still a beauty. No denying that. So what was the story with Jess? Why bother?

Lila tightened her grip around Jess' neck and swayed to the final strains of the song. Patience had to be the answer. Again, Jess kissed Lila goodnight at her car with promises to see her the next weekend. Lila was unsure, but forced herself to be calm. Friday night, Lila rushed to Charity. At the bar, in her usual place, sat Jess. Lila relaxed.

At the end of the month, Lila's resolve at patience was wearing thin. They had been to a concert at Mt. Hood, hiking at Multnomah Falls, walking on the

(Continued on page 18)

beach, sampling exotic restaurants and dancing at Charity. Jess was comfortable and happy with Lila. Lila had seen no one else in the month. After their fifth week together, Jess proposed a picnic dinner. She picked Lila up at 5:30 and they drove to Mt. Hood National Park. Trillium Lake sat nestled at the base of the mountain. The melting snow run-off fed the lake with clear blue waters, and if you stood in just the right place, you could see the reflection of the mountain on the glassy surface. It was a spectacular view that left Jess in awe every time she saw it.

Jess parked her old blue Nova in a clearing. She lifted a wicker basket onto her shoulder, stuffed a couple of old blankets under her arm and started off through the thicket. She seemed sure of where she was going, so Lila followed in silence. After a short walk through the cool brush, they emerged at a cove. Right at the lake's edge the trees and bushes formed a barrier on the right, and a natural rock formation provided a barrier on the left. Jess spread the blankets on the thick grass and pine needles closest to the trees.

"I like to think that only I know about this spot. I've never seen anyone else here." "It's breathtaking! I've never been to the park before," said Lila.

Jess chuckled and said, "How deprived you are! I come here every chance I get."

"Alone?"

"Until now. I can breathe here. Shake the cobwebs out of my brain and let go of the old hurts. It's hard to feel bad when the scenery is so powerful."

They sat side by side on the blanket facing the lake. The sun was dipping low and reflecting a brilliant orange in the clear, still lake. Jess put her arm around Lila's shoulders and drew her close. Lila rested her head on Jess' shoulder, feeling the strong arm surrounding her, the warm hand softly stroking her arm.

When Lila looked up into Jess' face, she had a feeling of being home. When Jess kissed her, it was like nothing she had ever known.

Jess lowered her lips to Lila's neck and shoulder. She felt the tremors in Lila's breathing as she slowly lowered them both to the ground. Jess kept looking into Lila's eyes to see if the doors had closed. What she saw was a beseeching, a pleading, a welcoming.

Slowly, deliberately, she opened button after button on Lila's blue shirt, exposing her ivory breasts. Lila sucked in her breath, arching her back as Jess' mouth covered first one breast, then the other. A moan, barely audible, came from deep within Lila as she grabbed Jess' hair, pressing the mouth more tightly to her breast.

Painstakingly, Jess removed Lila's clothes and then her own. Both were breathing rapidly, each touching, exploring the other with hands and mouths. In a frenzy, Jess pulled herself away from Lila's hot hands and moved to the center of passion, slowly tasting and dipping, teasing the moaning woman. Lila's rocking body and hands that pressed Jess into her told Jess that the time was right. In the briefest instant, Lila went rigid, gasped, and then went limp. Jess crawled up beside her, gathering Lila into her arms to hold, to kiss, to protect, to love. She held her close, kissing her eyelids, stroking her back. Lila opened her eyes, and for the very first time, Jess saw molten lava rather than cold steel. The doors had been torn from their hinges. In their places were flecks of indescribable color, beckoning Jess to come in and be at home. With tears on her cheeks, Jess cradled the fiery redhead and said, "Welcome home, sweetness. I've been waiting a long time for you." Lila reached out to consummate their growing love.

1999 Human Rights Campaign Colorado Dinner

WHEN: Saturday, February 20, 1999

WHERE: Adams Mark Hotel (Downtown Denver)

TIME: 5:30-7:30 PM Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction

8:00 PM Dinner in the Grand Ballroom

Welcome Remarks

1999 Paul Hunter Award Recipient
Regina DiPadova

Special Guest

Keynote Speaker

Comedy By Georgia Ragsdale

$150 Per Person
Formal Attire Optional

CONTACT: 303-331-2786 or www.coloradohrc.org

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization. They fight to end discrimination through a combination of Bipartisan political action and grassroots mobilization. The 8th Annual Colorado Dinner is HRC's primary fund raiser.

This year's theme is **Unity in Equality** and the dinner is dedicated to all victims of hate crimes worldwide.

THE INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TRAVEL ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS JAMAICA'S DECISION TO UPHOLD BAN ON HOMOSEXUALITY.

The Jamaican government has officially refused to grant basic human rights protections for its gay and lesbian citizens and visitors, despite calls and formal objections from local and international groups, including the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association and The Independent Jamaican Council for Human Rights.

According to IGLTA's Executive Director, speaking on behalf of his global board of directors, "The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association strongly condemns Jamaican authorities for failing to ensure the safety, welfare, and comfort of gays and lesbians living on and visiting the island nation. We call on the government of Jamaica to ensure the safety of gay and lesbian citizens and tourists to Jamaica. The nation appears to be a leader in the region's emerging homophobia that has already shown its ugly face in the Cayman Islands and Costa Rica. That is a tragedy."

"The mission of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association is to expand the choices and travel opportunities for lesbian and gay consumers. Our members work very hard not only to offer quality and value, but also to make sure that the gay and lesbian travel experience is both rewarding and safe. We can only achieve this if governments, tourism authorities, and the private sector work together to end the climate that spawns these kinds of decisions." "IGLTA stands with our members and with all of the travel sector to insist that this decision by the Jamaican government ultimately be reversed, and that steps are immediately taken to ensure that the nation's human rights protections are extended to gays and lesbians. If Jamaica is unwilling or unprepared to welcome gay and lesbian tourists to their shores, then IGLTA is prepared to warn all of our member companies and associations that our tourist dollars are no longer welcome in that country."

EQUALITY BEGINS AT HOME

Equality begins at Home is the beginning of a national campaign to strengthen and unite the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities in every state and territory in the country. EBAH will consist of a series of coordinated actions for the purpose of highlighting the need for effective change in the states, where much of the political momentum has shifted. Equality Colorado is coordinating a week of action March 21-26. For more information please call 303-839-5540.

Womyn to Womyn

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